

GORDONSTON

Gazette



Park Place

Have you noticed how great the park looks this summer? New residents might not know that the park is maintained entirely by volunteers in Gordonston. The city takes care of the circle and the medians, but the park is up to us.



Neighbors have been busy mowing, trimming, clearing, weeding, edging, and

more. So, if you see someone working in the park, be sure to thank them. (We see you out there with the riding mower, Rusty!)

Want to help out? Watch the Gordonston Facebook page for group work days. You can also just grab a fallen limb or pull a few weeds the next time you're in the park. All types of help is welcome!

PLOGGING *Is that even a word?*

A group of intrepid neighbors has joined in a bit of a craze... called *plogging*.

Social science and anecdotal evidence suggests that one piece of litter inspires the addition of dozens more in a sort of dirty snowball effect. But, people are less likely to litter in a place they perceive is picked up.

Plogging is the combination of jogging and picking up litter along the running route. Ploggers take along a plastic trash bag, and perhaps some gardening

gloves, and grab litter when they see it.

The result is a cleaner neighborhood that is more likely to stay that way, longer. Plus there are health benefits. Just one plog netted four full trash bags, 7,000 steps (3 miles) and 900 calories burned.

To join a plogging walk or jog, watch the Gordonston Facebook page. Kudos to Charlotte Landon for bringing the practice to the neighborhood, and to everyone who is joining in to keep the neighborhood beautiful!



The word plogging fuses 'plocka upp' and 'jogga', meaning 'picking (up)' and 'jogging' in Swedish.

100 years of Gordonston



202 Atkinson Avenue was designed and built in 1927 by builder Faquar McRae for Frank and Daisy Durant.

Frank was born in Bethel, Connecticut, near Danbury, and 202 is a lovely New England style Colonial Revival. Frank Durant was in charge of retail sales for the Bright-Brooks Lumber Company, thus the house features wood floors, and mahogany wainscoting and oak cabinets (now painted white). I am the third owner, after Ann and John Tatum.

The house is entered through a handsome mahogany door - a 2016 handmade replacement of the original door with leaded sidelights. Separating the entry hall from the living and dining rooms were pairs of 15-light oak and glass doors (now removed). Candle style electric sconces lit the hall. Both the up and down stairs halls feature telephone nooks.

The original fireplace had a red brick surround and a wood mantel shelf. This was replaced by an antique carved wood classical style mantel.

The kitchen floor is cement paved with a beautiful multi-colored tile floor. The original radiator heat used a coal fired boiler that necessitated a brick chimney over the kitchen, now home to a flock of chimney swifts! The best room is the screened side porch overlooking three garden rooms. The stones in the walls came from Connecticut.

Thanks to Frank and Don Durant, grandsons of the original owners, for some of this information.

- Beth Reiter

What led us to buy **3 Edgewood** upon touring it on a rainy morning was the solid slam! of the front door. That door, the house's solid plaster walls and ceilings, original hardwood floors and the quality 1921 construction hastened our decision to make an offer on what has become known as "the Strang House." 3 Edgewood was built of cedar shingles by Dewey White in 1921, capped with a slate roof.

3 Edgewood has undergone additions and renovations yet still retains personality and quirks common to older houses. The rooms are generous in size and you can place a golf ball in most rooms and watch it roll. The stairway railing has missed a rung for decades and as long as we are here it won't be replaced. Someone's renovation cleaved one bedroom into two, walling off the south fireplace and adding permanent attic stairs. The attic held a decades-old secret when I fell against a concealed door several years ago. We hoped to discover treasures but only a few rusty hangers and a gentleman's pants held court in two splendid cedar closets within the space. The attic was enlarged with dormer windows across the front in the late 1930s or '40s. A built-in coffin-shaped storage unit is another attic gem, great for keeping kids out of mischief.

We have a partial basement from the coal era along with an underground secret cork wine cellar. Outside also has its attractions: the formal garden, one of the largest outside of the Historic District, was designed by Mr. Strang. The magnificent Savannah gray brick fence and front wall surrounding the garden are composed of the rare bricks taken from downtown demolitions with scrolled ironwork that accents the brickwork.

- Julia Williams



Interview with Barbara Johnson

Where are you from? How did you end up in Savannah?

I was born and raised in John Deere country, the great state of Indiana. Shortly after getting married in 1996, we moved to Savannah because my husband's mother lived here. His father had died 2 years earlier and he wanted to be near her.

Why did you decide to work for the Postal Service?

I have always respected the mailman. As a little girl growing up on a farm, I remember watching the mail being delivered out of the opposite side of the car. I thought our mailman was magical.

At one time it was hard to get a job at the Post Office. Once I passed the test and was offered a position to be a mailman, I once again saw that special mailman driving with one hand and sitting on the opposite side of the car delivering mail. I still remember the first day I put on my postal uniform. I was very proud.

What do you enjoy most about carrying the mail? And why do you like delivering in Gordonston?

I have been delivering mail in Gordonston for 10 years. During this time I have met many wonderful people. Some of those people have passed on but have left a special memory in my heart.

Delivering mail in Gordonston has made my job personal. I care if you receive your package or that letter you have been waiting on. You are my Gordonston family.

Thank you very much for allowing me to be a part of this community. I have had some great conversations, about sports, flowers, cooking and building. Gordonston is rich with many talents and knowledge to be shared among you all.

And I have built some wonderful friendships with the four legged residents as well.

What is something people probably don't realize about your job?

Some people may think delivering mail is easy and anyone can do it. I agree with part of that thought. It is easy 85% of the time. The other 15% will kick your butt.

You have the elements to tackle. We live in Savannah, if you don't like the weather, wait a day, it will change. I have to adapt to the heat, bugs, and other variables that may change my daily path.

What's the weirdest thing that you've experienced on your route (here or elsewhere)?



Birds, mocking birds, cat birds, the birds that swoop down and attack while you are delivering the mail. I was on Kentucky Avenue the first time this happened. I was petrified. I called my supervisor telling her I was being attack by *birds*. She laughed at me and said, "Just keep walking and once you get past the nest that the bird is trying to protect, it will leave you alone." I thought she was crazy.

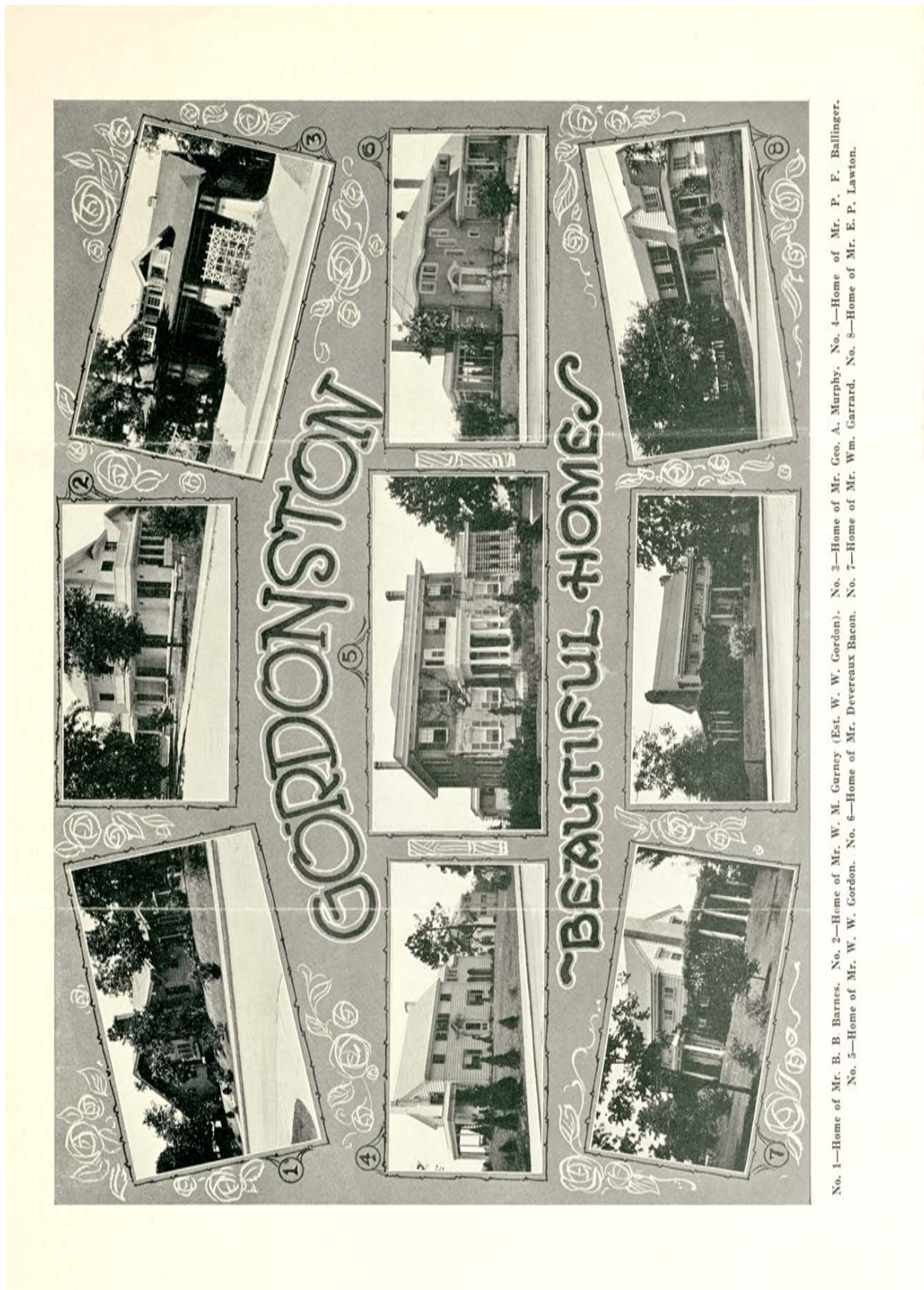
How in the world am I going to keep walking as I am being assaulted by a bird? She stayed on the phone with me as I was waving my towel and dodging the talons. It still takes me to that Alfred

Hitchcock movie.

Sometimes you may see me sitting in my truck, recovering from the elements or just taking a break. One day I was sitting in my truck at the corner of Kinzie and Atkinson. I counted 22 squirrels in a ten or fifteen minute time span. No, I did not count the same squirrel twice. I was flabbergasted.

When people say stop and smell the roses, it is a metaphor ... I would say if you are living in Gordonston, stop and count the squirrels.

If you do not know your neighbor, or if you have not walked the streets of Gordonston, you may be missing an opportunity to really appreciate what makes this neighborhood wonderful.



Thanks to Emily Garrard for finding these fantastic brochures.

Why You Should Build in Gordonston!

Gordonston consists of over eighty acres of high, well drained land divided into beautiful homesites by winding drives and attractive parkways.

Gordonston has over three miles of paved streets.

Gordonston has over three miles of cement sidewalks.

Gordonston has gas mains to every house now built and we guarantee gas to every new home.

Gordonston has a modern system of sanitary sewers and house drainage, ample to take care of all future needs.

Gordonston is supplied with city water from the city water main.

Gordonston has telephone service to every home.

Gordonston has electric service to every home, as well as a street lighting system.

Gordonston is the highest residential district in or near Savannah.

Gordonston is equipped with city fire plugs and has the protection of the Savannah Fire Department.

Gordonston has efficient street car service.

Gordonston has daily house to house mail deliveries, as well as regular delivery of morning and evening papers, ice, laundry, groceries, and packages from the shopping district.

Gordonston has over five hundred budded pecan trees.

Gordonston has over six hundred scarlet crepe-myrtle bushes.

Gordonston has abundant beds of evergreens, cedars and annual flowers.

Gordonston has a ten-acre original growth forest reserve of red bud, pine, poplar, cedar, gum, oak, magnolia and sycamore.

Gordonston has every city improvement and all modern conveniences but no city taxes.

The accompanying statistics on the development of Gordonston and the list of home owners in Gordonston assure the great future of this beautiful subdivision. Homesites in Gordonston can be obtained within the reach of everyone desiring a lot in a carefully restricted residential section.

Certain parts of this tract are restricted to bungalows and Savannah's most beautiful bungalows are in Gordonston. Other parts of the tract are restricted to two story houses. This insures a uniform building line which makes the appearance of the streets very pleasing.

Let us take you out to Gordonston at your earliest convenience and go over the prices of the beautiful homesites. We are in a position to finance the building of your home on a small cash investment and the balance paid either in monthly or quarterly payments. It will be our pleasure to have the opportunity to take you out to Gordonston, and it will place you under no obligations to have us do so.



Gordonston Home Owners

DEVEREAUX BACON

H. H. BACON

W. F. BALDWIN

P. F. BALLINGER

B. B. BARNES

C. R. BEACH

M. E. BRAY

H. W. DABNEY

MRS. MARY DeBORDE

R. DOWMAN ERNST

WM. GARRARD

W. W. GORDON

W. M. GURNEY (Est. W. W. Gordon)

FRED J. HOWDEN

FRANK M. HUFF

E. E. HUMPHREY

STEWART JOHNSON

W. B. LAIN

E. P. LAWTON

O. F. LITTLEFIELD

A. G. MUNRO (E. C. Thompson)

GEO. A. MURPHY.

ALEXANDER NICHOLICH

A. P. REED

J. T. ROCHE

H. B. ROCKWELL

H. L. SALSBURY

LEO SCHWEIZER

W. F. SHEPPARD

M. D. STEWART

O. E. STEWART

R. J. TAYLOR

"Home ownership is a beautiful mental and moral effect upon the whole family."

STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

2018 GNA MEMBERSHIP HONOR ROLL

Debbie Adams & Laura Grifka

August David Alderman

Pam & Barrett Benton

Betty & Bob Bess

Gordon & Julia Bonisteel

Brenda & Dee Bowers

AJ & Bonnie Carter

Brad & Deanne Christman

Pete Christman

Caitlin Condon

Tommy & Dottie Daniels

Carol McCray Davies

Karen & Jim Davis

Denise Dawson

John & Juliet Echenique

Buck & Suzy Elliott

Ian & Peggy Elliott

Jerry Fath

Brendan & Carey Ferrara

Edward & Rosita Fletcher

Soo & Mark Frischer

Andy & Krista Futch

Emily Garrard & Stuart Chatham

Steve & Meaghan Gerard

Jenny Gentry

Cooper & Deborah Glenn

Laura & Adam Gross

Robert & Betty Haldeman

Zirel Handler

Nancy Hayward

Nancy & Doug Henrick

John & Linda Herdina

Rusty Holt

John Hudson

Lorna & Lester Jackson

Peggy Jolley

Jamie & Mary Ann Kavanagh

Ramsey & Pamela Khalidi

Joa & Jessica Kelly

Charlotte Landon & Robert Trihart

James & Lisa Langley

Gene & Kate Maria

Kate Marsters

Kisha Marsters & Alexis Drebitko

Kathy & Joel Matulys

Melissa Mauldin & Tony Migchelbrink

Connie & Mick McCay

Shirley & Roger Munderloh

Fred & Legare Nadelman

Gelcys Nielsen & Paul Williams

Gino Orlandi & Catherine Killingsworth

Judi Painter

Kirsten Parent

Bobby & Sheila Phillips

Nancy Poser

Jo Ray Ranow

Kelly Reed & Mark Dennen

Beth Reiter

Colleen & Christopher Reynolds

Jeni Ellis Riggs

Charles R. Robertson

Tania Sammons & Rich Copeland

Brandon & Amanda Sebastian

Patty & Nancy Schreck

Cory Scoville & Mary Beth Whitecotton

Willie & Marie Smalls

Steven R. Smith

Brian & Leah Smith

Tom Stephenson

Hilda & Julie Sukman

Mary Sullivan

Dianne & Daniel Talcott

Jack Taylor

Marjory Taylor, Will & Noland Taylor

Margie Thompson, Kevin Ionno,

Dagmawit Ionno

Kay Tucker

Harald & Donna Von Fischer-Benzon

Alfonso Walker

Angela Watkins

Alexis Watts & Sean Setters

Julia & Charles Williams

Katherine Wilkes

Daniel & Kristin Weiner

Albert Zeigler

Mary Zipser

**GNA dues are collected at the
beginning of each calendar year.**

It's not too late to join – and enjoy two more GNA
events this year – **FREE!**

Download the membership form at www.gordonston.com or the Gordonston Facebook
page and return with payment to **Kate Marsters, membership coordinator.**

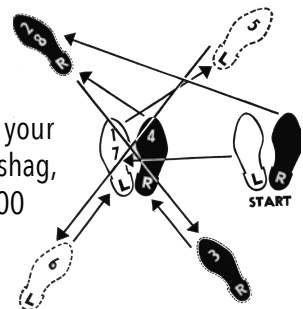


The garden club is on its summer hiatus. The season ended with lots of food and laughter at a pot luck / plant swap at the home of Charlotte and Robert.

Garden Club meets once every two months, September through May -- (usually) on second Tuesdays. Beginning gardeners and long-term green thumbs are always welcome. Annual dues are only \$15 and meetings often including free plants! Questions? Call Nancy Henrick, 912-777-5590. **New members always welcome.**

GORDONSTON DANCE CLUB

The new Gordonston Dance Club meets most weeks on Mondays at 7 p.m., in the park cottage. The free informal lessons are led by Rusty Holt and are open to all. No previous experience is needed. The only prerequisite is that you enjoy yourself. Come to improve your skills or simply learn the basics of dancing. So far, the group has practiced foxtrot, swing, shag, and two step. More male dance partners are needed as well. Contact Rusty Holt at 657-0000 or Denise Dawson at 659-9168 for more information.



Exercise is more fun with buddies. Want to try pilates? Yoga? Dance a few steps, then stretch, bend, and lift? Basic squats and leg lifts? Dottie Daniels opens the cottage in the park and brings music to get you moving several days a week. Call Dottie at 944-2703 to talk about days, times and your goals.

Watch www.gordonston.com or the Gordonston Facebook page for updates and announcements.

Gordonston Neighborhood Association Officers & Contacts

President

Krista Futch kristafutch@gmail.com C: 247-7064

Treasurer

Hilda Kessler hrks1931@outlook.com C:429-5654

Recording Secretary

Nancy Hayward nhayward@auxmail.iup.edu C: 412-309-0471

GNA Standing Committee Chairs

Membership

Kate Marsters marsters001@gannon.edu P: 232-3963

Park Committee

Daniel Weiner danieldubya@gmail.com C: 904-0640

Neighborhood Watch

Debbie Adams deborah.adams@sap.com C:678-427-1434

Cottage Rentals

Daniel Weiner danieldubya@gmail.com C: 912-604-0640

Kristen Weiner klnoel@gmail.com C: 912-224-4342

Social Committee

Melissa Mauldin lyssabug86@hotmail.com C:412-0057

Youth Activities

Kirsten Parent kirsetnnola@gmail.com C:978-846-3052

Newsletter & Flyer Distribution

Reynolds Family chinook178@comcast.net C: 604-1792

Newsletter

Kate Marsters marsters001@gannon.edu P: 232-3963

Meaghan Walsh Gerard info@mwgerard.com C: 655-8104

Affiliated Organizations

Book Club Judi Painter jabpainter@comcast.net or 912-232-4431

Garden Club Nancy Henrick nancyhenrick@gmail.com P: 777-5590

Park Trustee Harald von Fischer-Benzon hvfb@comcast.net P: 234-0818

SPD* APO Sherif Lockett slockett@savannah.gov 547-5451 or 525-3100 x3008

* With the separation of Savannah City policing from Chatham County, the East Side now has its own precinct, at 2250 Victory Drive. For the time being, Sherif Lockett will continue as our local contact.

Correction: In the spring 2018 issue, the architect of 4 Edgewood Road as John Courtney LeBay.
It should have been LeBey.

Notes from the City

Willie Mae Knight is the community outreach contact for Gordonston with the City of Savannah. Knight can be reached at 912-651-6520 x 8772 or 912-659-5288.

Crisis Cleanup Hotline:
800-451-1954

Medical Needs Registry (neighbors who are elderly or need assistance) :
912-691-7443.

Call **Matthew Rice** in the City's new Co-Compliance department at 912-658-2378 for property maintenance issues such as wildly overgrown grass, accumulations of trash, problems with unoccupied houses, and other urban blight.